



US Army Corps
of Engineers™

Vol. 29 Issue 12
December 2008
www.hnd.usace.army.mil

Huntsville Center Bulletin

On page ...

- 2** *Commander's Column*
- 4** *Center employees gear-up to bring scales down during state-wide weight-loss program*
- 6** *CMC Program now history*
- 8** *Center celebrates the holidays*
- 9** *Childhood love becomes lifetime hobby*
- 10** *Login changes to bolster AKO security*



**Happy
Holidays
and
Happy New
Year**



Ordnance clearance mission in Iraq ends, new disposal mission emerges

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has accomplished its mission of mobile ordnance cleanup in Iraq, and will now move refocused operations to a stationary location near Baghdad.

In a change of mission ceremony Nov. 21 in Iraq, the Coalition Munitions Clearance Program ended, and refocused efforts to destroy unusable munitions became the Coalition Munitions Disposal Program.

See *CMD mission* on page 6



Photo by Wayne Fulghum

Col. Scott 'Rock' Donahue, center, director, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, Engineers (C7), presents the flag flown over Camp Victory to Col. Larry McCallister, commander, U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, during the change of mission ceremony Nov. 21 near Baghdad, Iraq.

Destruction of chemical weapons at two facilities complete; facilities being torn down

By Jenny Stripling
Public Affairs Office

Destruction of harmful chemical weapons has been completed at the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Maryland and Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Indiana.

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, managed the construction of the two facilities as part of its chemical demilitarization mission.

The Chemical Demilitarization Program was established in 1986 to remove the storages of chemical weapons at former military testing grounds. In April 1997 the U.S. was required to

safely destroy 100 percent of the nation's chemical weapons by April 2007. The U.S. petitioned to have the original deadline extended to April 2012 and was granted this five-year extension.

Facilities are built on site specifically for the use of destroying chemical weapons. Once the weapons are destroyed, any building that came into contact with the agents must be torn down in compliance with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). RCRA governs the construction, operation and closure of hazardous

See *Chem Demil* on page 5

Commander's thoughts

Happy Holidays everyone! The year-end holiday celebrations kicked off the last week of November with Thanksgiving and, after a short recovery period to let all of the turkey and dressing settle, it's on to the December celebrations.

Due to mission commitments, the Huntsville Center's holiday party was Dec. 5, a little earlier this year than in the past. We had some great activities to include caroling, poetry writing contest and door decorating followed by a town hall event where we recognized folks for their accomplishments and announced winners of the contests. We also allowed time that afternoon for organizations within Huntsville Center to have their own parties either in the building or offsite. This is the only day authorized for office parties. I hope you participated in the events and enjoyed the day.

December brings a change in mission focus for our Coalition Munitions Clearance team in Iraq. On Nov. 21, the CMC Program became the Coalition Munitions Disposal Program. This is the fourth new mission in Iraq for Huntsville Center. Following the invasion of Iraq in March 2003, it was quickly realized that there was a need to dispose of an estimated 600,000 tons of captured enemy ammunition. In July 2003, our Ordnance and Explosives Directorate was tasked with the Captured Enemy Ammunition disposal mission. CEA provided



Col. Larry D. McCallister

assistance in the controlling and disposing of massive stockpiles of munitions in Iraq. The mission evolved into the CMC Program and Depot Operations Program in February 2006. The CMC Program was tasked with the subsurface clearance of previously destroyed ammunition sites in Iraq while the Depot Operations Program was tasked with standing up and operating two ammunition depots for the newly formed Iraqi Army. The newest mission finds the Army's focus is changing. The ammunition sites that were a concern have all been cleared and the ammunition depot has

been turned over to the Iraqi army for their own control and operation. The new mission will involve a centralized collection point for the disposal of U.S. unserviceable ammunition and ammunition items recovered by the field units during their operations. Each change brings us closer to the point where we will be able to hand over all operations to the Iraqi army.

In December supervisors will be able to talk to employees about their annual performance ratings. Payout of salary increases and bonuses will happen in January. I want to thank everyone for the hard work and diligence that went into self-assessments, ratings and pay pool reviews. It's a lot of work, but, in the end, I feel it makes the ratings employees receive

See Commander on page 4

Hails and farewells

Welcome to new employees — **Jeffrey Dziedzic**, USACE Learning Center; **Paul Epperson**, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate; **John Grimes**, Contracting-Defense Contract Audit Agency; **James Hanks**, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; **Lanita McGraw-Holloway**, Contracting Directorate; **Jelani Ingram**, Engineering Directorate; **Sherry Knighten**, Internal Review; **Deanna Kokocha**, Contracting Directorate; **Brenda Pilkerton**, Engineering Directorate; **Theresa Rede**, Contracting Directorate-Pueblo Resident Office; **Marisa Richards**, Engineering Directorate;

William Strong, Engineering Directorate; and **Rebecca Vucinaj**, Contracting Directorate.

Farewell to Carol Beane, DCAA; **Yolanda Brown**, deploying to Iraq; **William Hudson**, Engineering Directorate; **Regina McKinnie**, Army Logistics Management College-Tom Bevill Center; **Brandon Price**, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; **Bruce Railey**, Engineering Directorate (deploying to Iraq); **John Trudell**, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; **Vicki Vandermier**, Contracting Directorate; and **Carolyn White**, Resource Management.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

The Huntsville Center Bulletin is printed by digital copier as an official publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the U.S. Army. Inquiries can be addressed to Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, Attn: CEHNC-PA, P.O. Box 1600, Huntsville, AL 35807-4301. Phone: DSN 760-1693 or commercial 256-895-1693. The Bulletin is also online at www.hnd.usace.army.mil. Circulation: 1,000.

BULLETIN

Commander..... Col. Larry D. McCallister
Chief, Public Affairs..... Debra Valine
Editor..... Becky Proaps

What is your most memorable holiday experience?



Adam T. Humphrey
Spectra Tech

My most memorable holiday experience was a Christmas in Chicago. I went up there for our annual family dinner. This particular year there was a blizzard that “shook the earth.” Outside looked like a scene from the *Wizard of Oz*. The doors of the house would not stay shut, and windows seemed like they were going to shatter. It was a bit terrifying to say the least, but when the snow settled, the scene that it made was amazing. The snow was up to my shoulders; cars had disappeared, and we all knew that we were not going anywhere for a long time. This experience really gave my family the opportunity to bond and cherish each other. We had nothing but time and food on our hands and that is what really forced us to communicate and get to know each other in different ways. That Christmas will never be forgotten.

My most memorable holiday experience was Thanksgiving 1995 because that year my one and only child, Jonathan, was born the day before Thanksgiving. We got to go home late Thanksgiving evening and my mom brought over a wonderful Thanksgiving meal for the proud parents and grandparents to enjoy. God definitely blessed my family that Thanksgiving/Christmas Season!



Maggie Griffin
Engineering
Directorate

The holidays that I remember most always included snow. When I was a child, I wished for snow every year — a White Christmas. I usually got it, too. It’s because of those memories that I still have this wish.



Waldo Battle
Phoenix Services



Victor Taylor
Safety Office

Last Thanksgiving may have been my most memorable holiday so far. All of our children, grandchildren, spouses and spouse wannabes made it to our house in Woodville for the holiday. With 12 children and four grandchildren it was memorable. Since one National Guard son had been deployed for 15 months to Germany and was being deployed again to Kuwait it was not normal for everyone to be together for the holidays. Nothing like having 25 for turkey dinner. The Wednesday before the holiday a local restaurant in Woodville called and invited all of us for a free meal as part of their customer appreciation day. I gave them a chance to take it back. But they were serious, and we filled their restaurant with 22 patrons (we were still waiting for the arrival of three of our children). I can’t wait for future holidays when more of our children start having children. That will be even more fun.

My husband and I were married 10 years ago in December. It was a very memorable month for us. We arranged to be married on Dec. 21, one year prior, before his one-year duty tour in Korea. He gave me our engagement ring before he left. All arrangements were made over the phone. We love the Christmas season and planned to use the church with its holiday decorations. He came “home” to where I lived at the time, Kansas City, and we finalized our preparations. Family came in from Alaska, Florida, Tennessee, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Idaho, and Washington State. It snowed a bit the evening of the ceremony. It was beautiful — cold, but perfect. We spent the evening on “The Plaza” in the nicest hotel with a beautiful view of the lights. The next day we left for our “honeymoon”. We spent it at ... Disney World! His mother and children had prearranged over a year before to get together with him there (before we were engaged!). We spent the next week in a two-bedroom condo, with his mom, stepfather and two children ages 8 and 6. It wasn’t exactly how we meant to spend our time, but since he had to go back to Korea, how could we do it any differently! We have some great pictures and memories, and made it up to each other by staying in a beachside bed and breakfast at Nags Head, N.C., some years later during his month visit back from Bosnia. Life in the Army!



Patricia Jeffery
Installation
Support and
Programs
Management
Directorate



April Rafael-Adams
Engineering
Directorate

My most memorable holiday experience happened to be my birthday. I went to Miami Beach and stayed at the DoubleTree on the beach. I went with my sister and a girlfriend. We had a great time. I had made reservations and told them it was my birthday. I knew I was going to get a great room. When I got there they gave me this huge suite with big TVs on the walls, a big living room, moved in a refrigerator, gave me a gift basket, a roll-away bed and basically anything I asked for including all the cookies we wanted. It was free. It was tremendous. It was the best holiday. The plane left us (my fault — I got lost), and we rolled home in a car and had more fun coming back to Huntspatch.

Center employees gear-up to bring scales down once again during state-wide weight-loss program

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

For 10 weeks, beginning in January, Huntsville Center will join in with hundreds of other organizations in a statewide weight-loss program called "Scale Back Alabama." The campaign is geared toward adults and is primarily operated with the help of local employers. This is the second year that Center employees will participate.

Now in its third year, "Scale Back Alabama" is a statewide weight-loss program that will start in January 2009. The purpose of the 10-week contest is to encourage Alabamians to lose weight, to exercise and to have fun while doing it. Last year's campaign drew more than 40,000 people in almost every county with a cumulative reported weight loss of more than 200,000 pounds.

The goal of the program is to get each individual on a team to lose one pound per week for a total of 10 pounds during the contest. For every individual who completes the 10-week contest and loses at least 10 pounds, his/her name will be placed in a drawing for one of 20 statewide prizes of \$250 each. For the team that

maintains all of its original team members throughout the contest with each losing at least 10 pounds, the team name will be placed in a drawing for one statewide, grand prize of \$1,000 per team member.

"This contest is a great way to get fit," said Marsha Russell, fitness consultant at the Center. "It provides a very fun and competitive approach to exercising. You can team up with your fellow co-workers and work hard toward the same goal — shedding those pounds," she said.

Last year, Center employees formed 29 teams with four people on each team, exercising, counting calories and staying committed to losing a whopping 686 total pounds at the contests end. The 2008 winners were the Whoppers, comprised of Ed Powers (the captain), LaWanda Pollard, Greg Havo and Joe Conn, all from the Chemical Demilitarization Directorate. As a team they lost 73 pounds.

Greg Havo also tied with Scott Millhouse, Engineering Directorate, as the top male losers by each losing 23 pounds. Havo said he lost an additional 15 pounds after the contest, and he attributes much of his success to staying with the same workout program he used during the "Scale



Photo by Jenny Stripling

Greg Havo, one of the biggest weight losers during last year's "Scale Back Alabama" competition, continues to use the fitness center to maintain his new weight and to stay healthy.

Back" weight loss program.

"I decided to do this primarily for health reasons, and it's been very beneficial for me. My health has improved considerably over the past year, Havo said. "Exercise is a great stress reliever and energy booster. I've lowered my blood pressure and cholesterol, and have been taken off several other medications," he said.

Although Conn's persistence in keeping Havo accountable during the contest helped him tremendously, he said it is his own dedication to keeping

See Scale Back on page 11

Commander

continued from page 2

more fair across the board. Once employees receive their ratings of record, there will be an amount of time for reconsideration before the payout.

The Combined Federal Campaign will come to a close Dec. 12. We've had an activity-filled campaign this year with the chili cook-off, bingo, golf tournament and bake sales. As of Dec. 8, we had raised \$75,357.61. Our goal was \$75,000. Congratulations on helping us reach our goal. If you've not yet made your pledge or donation, please get with your key worker or Yazmine Gerousis in Resource Management. Your contributions will go a long way toward helping others in the community and in the country, depending on where you

decide to send your money. Thank you for your generosity.

Notable events this month include Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on Dec. 7 and the Army National Guard Birthday Dec. 13. The holiday celebrations include Hanukkah, Christmas and New Year's Eve.

December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. As you plan your holiday activities, please remember to use a designated driver if you plan to drink alcohol. And, illegal drugs are always a no-no! But some medications can make you drowsy or otherwise impair your driving, so use them with caution. Your safety is of utmost importance to me and the Huntsville Center.

Lynn, Shannon and I wish all of you Happy Holidays, a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

Chem Demil

continued from page 1

waste storage, treatment and disposal facilities

This entire process of destroying chemical weapons accelerated after the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

“After Sept. 11, we redesigned plants from fully automated and high tech plants to a more manual type plant,” said Pat Haas, director of Chemical Demilitarization Directorate and resident engineer during the time Newport was being constructed. “At that time it was a very high risk terrorist target and this accelerated the need to finish the job.”

Construction of a chemical destruction facility began at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland in 1999 in order to destroy a stockpile of the chemical agent known as mustard. On Feb. 2, 2005, the U.S. Army removed the last container of mustard agent from Aberdeen’s Chemical Agent Storage Yard ending 61 years of the agent’s bulk storage at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

“We deal with pretty dangerous chemicals, but we pulled it off. We had a great safety record throughout the process and at Aberdeen especially, it was important to be very careful in handling these chemicals.”

— Bill Johnson



Courtesy photo

Construction of the chemical destruction facility began at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., in 1999. The neutralization process of the chemical agent, mustard, finished in 2005.

After completing agent operations for Aberdeen Proving Ground demolition of the chemical destruction facility began. The ground surrounding the Chesapeake Bay area called for sturdier foundations at the Aberdeen plant, in turn taking almost two years to destroy, finishing in 2007. Most other sites only take about a year to demolish and return to the pre-existing condition, but the site conditions at Aberdeen added significantly to the destruction schedule.

“The Aberdeen and Newport facilities were unique in that both were neutralizer facilities,” said Project Manager Bill Johnson. “These types of facilities are where agents that are stored in ton containers are destroyed by chemically neutralizing them. Previous plants have been incinerator types where munitions were burned rather than neutralized.”

Plans for destroying VX nerve agent at Newport began more than 20 years ago and on Aug. 8, the last drops of the 1,269 tons of deadly were destroyed at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

VX is a human-made chemical warfare agent classified as a nerve agent. Nerve agents are the most toxic and rapidly acting of the known chemical warfare agents.

The destruction was a great achievement for the community and for all involved in the process. In September or October 2009, the Newport destruction facility is set to be completely demolished and returned back “to grass” as Aberdeen was.

“We deal with pretty dangerous chemicals, but we pulled it off,” Johnson said. “We had a great safety record throughout the process and at Aberdeen especially, it was important to be very careful in handling these chemicals. Overall the Corps is proud of what we have accomplished.”



Courtesy photo

In 1999, the U.S. Army awarded Parsons the contract to design, build, and operate a demilitarization facility that destroyed a stockpile of the chemical agent VX. The Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility is in Indiana .

CMC Program now

In the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Coalition Forces found huge caches of ammunition scattered throughout Iraq. With other pressing security concerns, Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) -7 was unable to provide organic military assets to secure and destroy these hazards. CJTF-7 assigned the responsibility of handling these hazards to the Captured Enemy Ammunition (CEA) Cell under the C7 Staff Engineer.

CJTF-7 C7 CEA Cell wanted a “one-stop supplier” who could provide full site security, “cradle-to-grave” ammunition management, and manage the collection, transportation, and demolition process. This broad

requirement would include providing all the logistics support, communications, equipment and manpower required to accomplish the task. A true standalone capability was needed.

CJTF-7 C7 CEA Cell approached the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with this requirement in early June 2003. Fortunately, the Huntsville Center was accustomed to providing a total systems approach to such problems, as they had years of experience managing Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) and had open Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Clearance contracts to quickly leverage for this capability.

The Huntsville Center Contractor team mobilized to Iraq Aug. 23, with the goal to occupy and become self-sufficient at seven

CMD mission

continued from page 1

Under the CMC Program, managed by the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center in Huntsville, Ala., mobile teams traveled the country destroying caches of enemy ammunition.

“The ammunition sites that were a concern have all been cleared and the ammunition depot has been turned over to the Iraqi Army for their own control and operation,” said Bill Sargent, Huntsville Center’s CMC and CMD program manager.

The new CMD mission will involve a centralized collection point for the disposal of U.S. unserviceable ammunition and ammunition items recovered by the field units during their operations, Sargent said. The site will also destroy any caches of munitions found and brought to the site.

“Over the past five years, and through the successful partnership with U.S. Army Central and the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, this \$1.5 billion program destroyed more than 346,000 short tons of explosive remnants of war at 51 clearance sites, denying the enemy from using these hazardous materials for improvised explosive devices that would have



Photo by Wayne Fulghum

Col. Larry McCallister, left, commander, U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, hands Col. Scott 'Rock' Donahue, director, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, Engineers, the new flag that will be flown over the facilities supporting the Coalition Munitions Disposal Program.

caused untold loss of life and property,” said Col. Scott “Rock” Donahue, director, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, Engineers (C7).

At the height of the program, 18 mobile teams were operating in Iraq to support the CMC mission, and local national labor and subcontractors were hired at each of the 51 clearance sites.

“The toll on these honorable men and women performing this inherently dangerous mission was high: 43 expatriates and an untold number of local nationals lost their lives denying the enemy ammunition, ordnance and cache sites,” Donahue said.

“I think this is a very important change for the Army,” Sargent said. “It shows that we’re winding down ... it shows the progress going on in the country.”

Following the invasion of Iraq in March 2003, it was quickly realized that there was a need to dispose of an estimated 600,000 tons of captured enemy ammunition. In July 2003, Huntsville Center’s Ordnance and Explosives Directorate was tasked with the Captured Enemy Ammunition disposal mission. CEA provided assistance in the controlling and disposing of massive stockpiles of munitions in Iraq.

The mission evolved into the CMC Program and Depot Operations Program in February 2006. The CMC Program was tasked with the subsurface clearance of previously destroyed ammunition sites in Iraq while the Depot Operations Program was tasked with standing up and operating two ammunition depots for the newly formed Iraqi army.

history

identified Ammunition Depots (Jaguar, Arlington, Buckmaster, Taji, Paladin, Ashraf/Az Zubayr and An Najaf).

The Huntsville team and the CJTF-7 C7 CEA Cell partnered to form the CEA Program. Initially, the mission was to perform an inventory and demilitarization of the munitions stored inside Iraq depots. Later five of the seven depots were closed.

The ammunition was either destroyed or moved to the remaining depot located at Baiji and later repatriated to the Iraq government beginning Oct. 1, 2008.

After the depot operations were complete, mission priorities shifted to securing and clearing cache sites outside the Ammunition Supply Points (ASP). In August 2004, mobile teams began surveying and clearing sites where Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) were discovered by Coalition Forces. As the political conditions within Iraq changed,

the CEA Program was redesignated in October 2005 as the Coalition Munitions Clearance (CMC) Program, as there was now no longer a uniformed enemy threat in Iraq.

By early 2006, 20 mobile teams were operating in country to support this expanded CMC mission. Mission requirements gradually reduced, which by 2008 lead to a restructured program with only eight mobile teams.

Total funding for the CEA/CMC Program through December FY 2009 was more than \$1.5 billion dollars.

The CMC Program has destroyed 346,824 short tons of munitions and ERW.

The MNC-I Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. Daniel B. Allyn declared the CMC mission a success in July 2008. This assessment was based upon the demilitarization of all major munitions stores, the developed Iraqi Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal capability and an increasingly more stable Iraq. The CMC program was directed to discontinue operations by December 2008. The last mobile team, working at Marez, demobilized Nov. 15.

In July 2008, MNC-I C7 identified a new requirement for USACE Huntsville's expertise. A cost-effective means for the destruction of unserviceable U.S. military munitions stocks within Iraq was needed. Realizing that the CMC program possessed the technical and material assets required to perform this function, a task order was again issued to Huntsville Center to develop an

In memoriam

Khaled Ali
Mikaele Banidawa
Frans Robert Brand
Edmund J. Bruwer
Roy C. Buckmaster
Serupepeli Vunisa
Buruso
Thomas J. Carter Jr.
Alivereti Cereilagi
Edward L. Cunahan
Darryle Grant De
Thierry
Michael B. Doheny
David Dyess
Stephen Enright
Steven E. Evrard
Vincent Foster
Vilisoni Gauna
Brenton T. Gray
Benjamin K. Hodges
Iain B. Hunter
Amir Kaun
Gerald J. Lambert
David Little

Hussein A. Mohamed
Raymond Moore
Sevuloni
Nawaduadua
Donald J. Neil
Jerry A. Palinski
Michael S. Price
Misaele M. Raiwale
Richard T. Rhodes
Jimmy Riddle
Carey G. Robinson
Vilimane
Rovutugaga
Rogelio A. Saraida
Wayne T. Schultz
Josaia Seniasi
Micah G. Shaw
Joseph P. Smith
Thomas M. Thomas
Penaia K. Vakaotia
Brian Wagoner
Johannes Wessels
Allan Wimpenny

operational statement of work and establish a site within the area of operation capable of executing the mission.

The Iraqi Army's Besmaya training complex was chosen as the future home of the Coalition Munitions Disposal Program. Located on the range complex is Forward Operating Base Hammer which is equipped to provide life support, security and an ammunition storage facility large enough to accommodate the program.

In addition, the Besmaya complex is home to the Iraqi Army Bomb Disposal School thus creating the perfect IA and MNC-I partnership.

Huntsville Center recently awarded the CMD operational contract to EOD Technologies. The company is expected to occupy and resume operations in early January 2009. The cost-effective destruction of unserviceable ammunition and ERW will greatly contribute to operational safety for continuing operations in Iraq.

CMC Contractors

UXO Companies

EOD Technology Inc. (EODT)
USA Environmental Inc. (USAE)
Zapata Engineering Inc.
Tetra Tech Foster Wheeler Inc.

Log Contractor

Parsons Corporation

Security Subcontractors

Armor Group
Cochise Consulting
Control Risk Group

Additional Subcontractors

Global Freight Services (GFS)
CARD Industries
NLC

The AIM Group

Lead Stay

PMA

DAMAC Services and Trading Co., LLC

National Logistics Company

Majestic Travel and Tours

SDN Global

TAURUS Trading

ALKAFORE

SATCOM Distribution Ltd.

Total GTCC

TOIFOR

ORASCOM TELECOM - IRAQNA (ZAIN)



Rachel Ray, left, Severo Lopez, Jerrica Thompson, Lois Grey, Yazmine Gerousis, Mindy Shelton, Darlene Stapler, Bill Noel and Brandon Hunt, under the musical guidance of Linda Merschman, back row, begin the town hall meeting and holiday festivities on the right note with Christmas carols and a sing-along with the audience. Bruce Railey, not pictured, was also part of the choir.



Engineering Directorate employees come together to share good food and fun during the holiday festivities at Huntsville Center Dec. 5.



Photos by Becky Proaps



The Office of Counsel door, left, won first place in the door decorating contest. Second place was awarded to the Internal Review Office and third place went to the Civil Structures, Engineering Directorate door. The Chemical Demilitarization Directorate, Blue Grass Resident Office door was the employee favorite winner. It won by raising the most money for the Huntsville Activities Association.

Huntsville Center celebrates the holidays

The “Season of Believing” came to the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center Dec. 5.

The day began with refreshments in the lobby and the Huntsville Center choir performing in the cafeteria under the direction of Linda Merschman. A town hall meeting with Col. Larry McCallister, Huntsville Center commander, followed including an employee recognition ceremony and a presentation to two Marines from the K Battery, 214th Motor Transport, U.S. Marines Corps Reserves, with the toys collected by the Center for the annual Toys for Tots campaign. The decorated door and poetry competition winners were announced and rewarded for their efforts. First place in the poetry contest went to Margaret Simmons, Office of Counsel; second place was awarded to Sue Baber, Security Office; and third place went to Karyn Meeks, Contracting Directorate. Each office spent the afternoon celebrating the holidays in a variety of ways.



Sue Baber, left, Security chief, receives her prize for winning second place in the holiday poetry contest from Col. Larry McCallister, Huntsville Center commander. Margaret Simmons won first place and Karyn Meeks won third place.

Childhood love becomes lifetime hobby

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

During the day you may see Huntsville Center's handywoman carrying hand tools as she fixes problems in the building, but at night you're likely to see her astride a horse.

Jill Winsett, an interior consultant and private contractor supporting the Logistics Management Office, was only 10 years old when she got her calling. She fell in love with walking horses.

"A childhood friend, Lora Baker, had a big influence on me growing up and my choosing this very unique hobby," Winsett said. "Her family owned a riding stable about a mile away from my home. One day I visited and she let me ride on the back of her pony with her, and told me about the shows they went to. I went to a show with her family one Saturday and became starry-eyed by the idea of owning my own horse." Winsett soon began riding a big old, red roan, a gentle giant named Falstaff.

"I was slower than all the other riders, but he was my teacher," she said.

Winsett acquired a walking horse of her own when she was 14. She was a strawberry roan named Taffy — hard to catch, but easy to ride.

She owned other horses between then and now and learned a lot about breeding and showing walking horses, but it wasn't until six years ago that she started working with horses again.

Winsett said walking horses are valued for their beauty, gentle temperament, versatility and the smoothness of their ride. They have a very peculiar bi-lateral gait, which is totally unrelated to anything resembling other horses. The horses lift their front hooves high into the air when they walk in a prancing motion, and their heads bob in unison. When running, the horses maintain the same unusual gait and simply shift into high-speed overdrive.

"They (walking horses) are such graceful animals and come in so many unique color patterns. I'm amazed by the many varieties of color and the complex genetics of the horses, especially the spotted ones," Winsett said. "When you breed a mare, you never know what you're going to get. In the spotted world the number one question is, does it have spots?"

Winsett and friend Mike Gooding have six horses in their stable right now and added another one late last month. Their stable is on a small farm about five miles west of Winchester Road in New Market, Ala.

Winsett said there is a preconceived notion that walking horses are mistreated. This is not always the case. She wants people to know that there are owners out there who take good care of their horses.

"Walking horses have been victims of severe abuse in the past due to a variety of training practices — the worst of which is called 'soring.' The horses' legs are injured with caustic chemicals making it painful to walk. This causes the animals to lift their feet even higher when walking to take pressure off, and thus perform better in the ring," Winsett said.

This abusive tradition has been outlawed, but is still allegedly practiced by some. Recently, federal inspectors cracked down on perceived violators, eliminating a large number of horses from competition. The horses are now checked for evidence of "soring" when they are shown. It is reported if an official suspects an owner has abused a horse.

"Owners like this because it helps make sure the sport is more competitive in a fair manner. It is not fair when a horse places well because of being trained in an inhumane way. Either a horse has a natural gift to show or it

doesn't," Winsett said. "I want to protect my animals from any form of cruelty, abuse or neglect."

Owning a walking horse can be quite expensive. According to Winsett, although the market for walking horses is low right now, normally you'd expect to pay more than \$2,500 for a horse that is already broke and has shown and placed. There is also the expense involved with providing ample pasture, feed, hay and water, and the costs for a veterinarian visits.

"I love working with and riding walking horses, and always look forward to adding a new horse to our stable," Winsett said. "I always wonder what unique personality the horse will have, and what it will mean for our stable."



Courtesy photo

Jill Winsett, interior consultant and Huntsville Center "handywoman", sits astride Babe, one of several walking horses she owns.

Although showing and riding walking horses is just a hobby for Winsett, it's also the kind of hobby that takes over. She said she'll continue as long as she has ample time to dedicate to it.

"Walking horses are God's unique creation and a great blessing and joy in my life. I've been doing this so long, and it's become so deeply rooted within me that it would be very difficult to imagine my life without them being a part of it through my hobby," Winsett said. "I guess you can say it's really in my blood."

Commander visits Baku

Col. Larry McCallister, U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, commander, and Patrick Haas, director, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate, visited the site for the construction of the Central Reference Laboratory in Baku, Azerbaijan in October. Valerie Schaffner, the management and oversight lead, hosted their visit. The program's mission is to combat bioterrorism and prevent proliferation of biological weapons-related technology, pathogens and expertise. McCallister and Haas met with the Azerbaijan ambassador, the customer and visited local sites.



Courtesy photo



Photo by Becky Proaps

Jennifer Lawrence's chili wins the most unusual category and the best overall category in the chili cookoff held Nov. 18 to raise money for the Combined Federal Campaign. Mindy Shelton won first place for the spiciest chili in the cookoff.



Photo by Becky Proaps

Huntsville Center employees line up to purchase bowls of homemade chili prepared for the CFC chili cookoff.



Photo by Becky Proaps

Karan Dougherty wins the first bingo game and the first basket given as a prize for the bingo game winners.

Chili, bingo benefits CFC campaign



November's fundraising efforts for the Combined Federal Campaign included a chili cookoff and bingo. The two events raised \$410.35. This year's campaign ends Dec. 12. As of Dec. 8, Huntsville Center employees had contributed \$75,357.61. The Center's goal was \$75,000. There is still time to give to this worthy cause; contact your section key worker or Yazmine Gerousis to make your contribution.

Login changes to bolster AKO security

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D. C. —

Operators of the Army's Web-based information portal "Army Knowledge Online" plan to implement new security procedures on the system as early as January.

When logging into the security-improved AKO, users will be presented with three questions they must correctly answer before being allowed to continue. The questions are designed to be difficult for anyone but the users themselves to answer, said Lt. Col. Ken Fritzsche, chief of operations for AKO.

"What AKO tries to do is provide a layer of protection, so in addition to just using a password, you can supply answers to questions about yourself," he said. "Who was your first teacher, the first person you kissed? It'll be answers known only by you.

So when you log in and provide those answers, we have at AKO a very

high sense of security that you are who you claim to be."

To prepare each user for the new security protocol, the AKO system will present each user with a list of 20 questions. The user then chooses to provide answers to 15 of those questions. In subsequent logins, AKO will present three of those questions to the user, with multiple-choice answers. Users will need to choose the correct answer in order to log in, said Fritzsche.

"Why do we offer the questions? Because the questions are one more layer of security that defeat keystroke loggers," Fritzsche said. "Keystroke loggers are probably one of the most popular methods used by known bad guys to capture credentials. So the new security credentials are used to help defeat keystroke logging."

"Keystroke loggers" are pieces of software installed on computers —



possibly by those wishing to gain illegal access to DoD networks — that record the keys pressed on a computer's keyboard.

It is easy for someone who has installed a

keystroke logger to use captured information to access a person's account. The addition of random information — such as the keystrokes needed to answer randomly chosen multiple-choice questions — makes it more difficult to record and reproduce a valid login sequence, Fritzsche said.

In addition to providing e-mail, chat and directory services to more than two million users, AKO also provides pass-through user authentication to hundreds of other Army computer systems. While directly logging into AKO will require users to answer three questions, Fritzsche said it will be at the discretion of other system owners to take advantage of the new security measure that AKO offers.

Scale Back

continued from page 4

fit that keeps him accountable now. Counting calories, eating healthy food and working out are all part of his daily routine.

"It's become a habit for me now, and has allowed me to return to the same weight as I was when I was in high school," Havo said. "Entering the 'Scale Back Alabama' contest was the right move for me, and provided me a great support system. I relied heavily on my contest buddy, Joe Conn, to keep me accountable during the scale down period.

Havo said using the fitness center is a great opportunity for Center employees to stay fit. Currently, there are two trainers on site, Marsha Russell and Christy Witt, whose primary responsibility is to help employees gain a better understanding of their own

bodies and its capabilities in regards to diet, fitness and overall health.

"Marsha and Christy are great trainers, and they both have been a great help to me over the past year. They worked me really hard," Havo said. "They assessed my needs and constructed a great workout plan for me. It has definitely worked, and I'm sticking with it."

The 2009 contest will begin the week of Jan. 10, and is open to all persons who work at the Center, to include contractors, consultants and government annuitant employees.

Russell said the Life Center will sponsor various seminars, pep rallies and consultations to help motivate employees during the contest. She said she hopes to get members of Team Redstone and Fox Army Clinic involved in some friendly local competition as

well.

"We want Center employees to be healthy and fit, and we (staff) are here to help you do this," Russell said. "We would like to see more teams involved in the competition this year. Everyone should start planning their team now."

For more information about forming a team to enter "Scale Back Alabama," contact Marsha Russell at 895-1108.

Schedule of Events for "Scale Back Alabama" 2009

Statewide kickoff

Jan. 8

Weigh-in week

Jan. 10-16

Weigh-out week

March 14-20

Final celebration

April 1

Ethics Corner

Movie lines, ethics: what's the connection?

**By Susan Turley
Office of Counsel**

(In keeping with the Huntsville Center Ethics training for this year, movie quotes will introduce various ethics topics.)

“Greed, for lack of a better word, is good.” *Wall Street*, #57

Rather than taking a second job, some people prefer to supplement their income by having their own business. While this is normally permissible, a Treasury computer specialist was fired for unauthorized use of government property to support his private business. Government computer records showed extensive activity related to the employee's comic book business. An investigation showed that the employee had falsified his timesheet to cover the time he had spent running his private business during work hours, leading to \$63,000 in payment for work he never did.

Many agencies allow limited personal use of government property when the use involves minimal additional expense to the government and does not overburden any of the agency's information resources. Nevertheless,

employees may not pursue private commercial activities or profit-making ventures using government equipment.

“Love means never having to say you're sorry.” *Love Story*, #13

The fact that an employee may not receive cash or other tangible financial benefits doesn't mean he hasn't violated ethical rules, as the next two examples show.

An offshore safety inspector found that much of the equipment on a rig needed repairs to meet safety standards. He referred the rig operators to his brother-in-law's repair shop. Smelling something “fishy,” the rig operators called the FBI — who in turn discovered that for each referral, the brother-in-law treated the inspector to an evening with “a lady of dubious morals.”

At trial, the inspector claimed he'd violated no law because he hadn't received a “thing of value” in return for the referral. The judge didn't buy it—nor did his wife.

“I coulda had class. I coulda been a contender. I coulda been somebody, instead of a bum, which is what I am.”

On the Waterfront, #3

One enterprising federal employee cut a deal with a local university: he got an honorary doctorate degree in public administration in return for signing a mega-buck grant for the university. (Obviously, he had great expertise in public administration.)

The offense of bribery occurs when a public official seeks or accepts anything of value (such as an honorary degree) in return for being influenced in the performance of an official act.

“Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former.” *Albert Einstein*

No movie quote captured the flavor of this last example as well as Einstein.

One entrepreneurial federal employee backed his panel van up to the office door one night and stole all the computer equipment. He was caught the next day after he tried to sell everything at a yard sale — with barcodes and “Property of U.S. Gov't” stickers still prominently displayed.

So don't prove the truth of Einstein's theory — call your ethics counselor first!

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ENGINEERING AND SUPPORT CENTER, HUNTSVILLE
P.O. BOX 1600
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35807-4301

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED